

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated January 22, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Paragraphs 29, 31, and 32 of the specification are amended to correct minor informality. Claim 1 is hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

With regard to the phrase “a drainpipe, communicating with said tube to discharge water container in said tube, said drainpipe having a second orifice provide at one side thereof,” the Office Action asserts that the term “communicating” and phrase “provided at one side thereof” are indefinite. With regard to the phrase “a water drain hose, communicating the first orifice of said gasket with the second orifice of said drainpipe, to discharge water via said drainpipe,” the Office Action asserts the term “communicating” is indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 1 so that now claim 1 even more clearly defines the subject matter.

On February 21, 2007, Applicants’ representatives held a teleconference with the Examiner to discuss the amendments to claim 1 presented above. The substance of the interview is set forth below and constitutes a record of the interview. The Examiner agreed that the amendments overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. For the above reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable. Claim 2-17, which depend from claim 1, are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

The application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in

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Amdt. After Final dated April 18, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action dated January 22, 2007**

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condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: April 18, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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